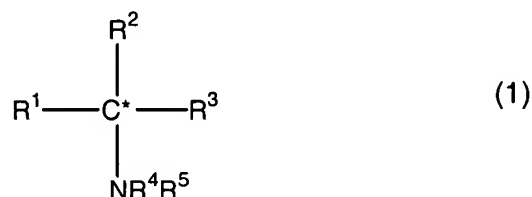


IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, in this application.

1. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of an enantiomerically enriched compound of formula 1



or a salt thereof, wherein:

C* represents an asymmetric carbon atom;

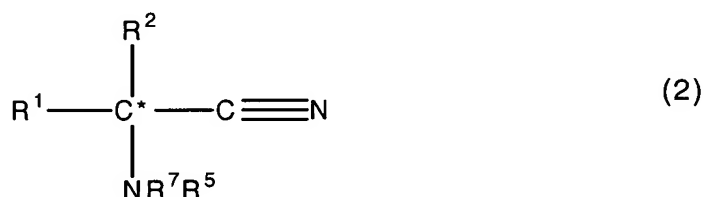
R¹ and R² are different from each other, and, each independently, represents H, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl or aryl group;

R³ represents CH₂OH or an optionally protected CHO group;

R⁵ represents H, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl or aryl group; and

R⁴ represents H or C(=O)R⁶ wherein R⁶ represents H, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, aryl or alkoxy group, or R⁴ represents or an amine protecting group, or

R⁴ and R⁵ form together with the N to which they are attached a cyclic imide group, which process comprises hydrogenating an enantiomerically enriched compound of formula 2



or a salt thereof, wherein C*, R¹, R², [[R³]] and R⁵ are as defined above; and

R⁷ represents H or C(=O)R⁶ wherein R⁶ is as defined above, or R⁷ represents an amine protecting group, or R⁵ and R⁷ form together with the N to which they are attached a cyclic imide group, in the presence of an aqueous solvent, hydrogen, a hydrogenation catalyst and a mineral acid.

2. (previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein R^3 is an optionally protected CHO group and wherein hydrogen is present at a hydrogen-pressure between 0.1 and 2 MPa.
3. (previously presented) The process of claim 2, wherein the hydrogen-pressure is between 0.5 and 1 MPa.
4. (currently amended) The process of claim 1 further comprising transforming an amino aldehyde of formula 1 in situ into an N, N-dibenzylated, bisulfite adduct, acetal, oxime, hydrazone, cyanohydrine, or amino nitrile compound; and isolating the transformed compound ~~wherein R^3 is an optionally protected aldehyde and the compound of formula 2 is isolated in the form of a chemically and configurationally stable derivative.~~
5. (previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein R^3 is a CH_2OH group and wherein at least during part of the hydrogenation hydrogen is present at a hydrogen-pressure between 2 and 10 MPa.
6. (previously presented) The process of claim 5, wherein at least during part of the hydrogenation the hydrogen-pressure is between 4 and 6 MPa.
7. (previously presence) The process of claim 5, wherein the hydrogen-pressure initially is between 0.5 and 2 MPa and subsequently, after most of the compound of formula 2 is converted to the compound of formula 1, the hydrogen pressure is increased to a value between 2 and 10 MPa.
8. (currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the hydrogenation catalyst is a Pd catalyst.
9. (previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the compound of formula 2 is prepared by (precursor) fermentation, enzymatic resolution, crystallization induced

asymmetric transformation, classical resolution, resolution via preferential crystallization, diastereomeric synthesis, catalytic asymmetric synthesis or dehydration of at least one amino acid amide.

10. (new) The process of claim 1 further comprising isolating a salt of the amino aldehyde of formula 1 in the form of a hydrate, hemiacetal or acetal.